

Attorney Docket No.: 051481-5077
Application No.: 09/986,758
Page 2 of 8

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A diffuser for an air mass flow controller for fuel cells, the diffuser comprising:

a housing having walls defining a volume;

an inlet ~~disposed~~ defining a first passage in fluid communication with the volume, the inlet being centered around and extending along a first axis, the inlet being coupled to a first one of the walls;

a first bank of outlets ~~disposed along a second axis, the first bank of outlets being coupled to a second one of the walls, each outlet of the first bank of outlets defining a respective second passage and being in fluid communication with the inlet volume, and each outlet of the first bank of outlets being centered around and extending along a respective second axis, the second axes defining a first plane parallel to the first axis;~~ and

a second bank of outlets ~~disposed along a third axis, the second bank of outlets being coupled to the second wall one of the walls, each outlet of the second bank of outlets defining a respective third passage and being in fluid communication with the inlet and the first bank of outlets volume, and each outlet of the second bank of outlets being centered around and extending along a respective third axis, the third axes defining a second plane parallel to and offset from the first plane.~~

2. (original) The diffuser of claim 1, wherein the inlet comprises a cylindrical tube.

3. (currently amended) The diffuser of claim 1, wherein the volume defined by the housing ~~is rectangular~~ comprises a parallelepiped shape.

4. (original) The diffuser of claim 1, wherein the first wall is disposed opposite the second wall.

5. (cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer)

6. (original) The diffuser of claim 1, wherein the first bank of outlets comprises cylindrical tubes.

Attorney Docket No.: 051481-5077
Application No.: 09/988,758
Page 3 of 6

7. (currently amended) The diffuser of claim 6, wherein inlet portions of the first bank of outlets protrude into ~~an interior of~~ the volume defined by the walls of the housing.
8. (original) The diffuser of claim 7, wherein ends of the inlet portions of the first bank of outlets include radii.
9. (original) The diffuser of claim 1, wherein the second bank of outlets comprises cylindrical tubes.
10. (currently amended) The diffuser of claim 9, wherein inlet portions of the second bank of outlets protrude into ~~an interior of~~ the volume defined by the walls of the housing.
11. (original) The diffuser of claim 10, wherein ends of the inlet portions of the second bank of outlets include radii.

Claims 12-22 (withdrawn)

23. (new) The diffuser of claim 1, wherein the first axis is parallel to and spaced from the first and second planes.